

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 807

Introduced by Assembly Member Keeley

February 24, 1999

An act relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 807, as introduced, Keeley. Pajaro River Watershed.

Existing law provides for state participation in specified watershed protection flood control projects.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations relating to the Pajaro River Watershed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and
2 declares all of the following:

3 (a) The Pajaro River Watershed consists of more than
4 1,400 square miles of land. Much of the watershed is prime
5 agricultural and range land, providing a strong base for
6 the region's economy. Much of the land within the
7 watershed provides housing, employment, recreation,
8 and educational opportunities for central coast residents
9 and visitors from throughout the state, nation, and world.

10 (b) The Pajaro River Watershed includes portions of
11 San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey
12 Counties, and each of those counties is concerned about

1 the ability of its communities to sustain a high quality of
2 life with regard to agriculture, housing, commerce,
3 education, and environmental protection.

4 (c) The Pajaro River Watershed includes flood control
5 structures, such as the Pajaro River levee system, that
6 were designed and constructed, in most cases, nearly 50
7 years ago. Those flood control structures are now proving
8 to be inadequate to protect the area's agricultural lands,
9 and commercial, residential, and public sector buildings,
10 and environmental resources.

11 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature, through the
12 enactment of this act, to provide the leadership necessary
13 to enable the local governments and local residents of the
14 Pajaro River watershed to exercise appropriate powers to
15 ensure that the human, economic, and environmental
16 resources of the watershed are preserved, protected, and
17 enhanced in terms of watershed management and flood
18 protection.

